

# THREE VIEWS NEWS

CIRCULATION 1330

FEBRUARY 2023

*No. 172*

YOUR LOCAL NEWSLETTER



THE NATIONAL FOREST

**OAKTHORPE**



THE NATIONAL FOREST

**DONISTHORPE**



THE NATIONAL FOREST

**ACRESFORD**

PUBLISHED & EDITED BY THE 3 VIEWS NEWS TEAM  
COVER DESIGN BY [WWW.MAGICWORX.CO.UK](http://WWW.MAGICWORX.CO.UK)  
COVER PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY CLAIRE JACKSON





## Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe and Acresford

### Parish Council, January 2023



I hope everyone had a good Christmas and you are all on track to a great 2023. With local elections coming up in May, I have been looking back on my last four years' term of office on the Parish Council.

My experience as a Parish Councillor has been most interesting. I have gained insight into how local government works and had input into Parish decisions and trying to improve the appearance and safety of our area. I only wished I had become a Councillor when first approached years ago. We are hoping that more people in the Parish show an interest and apply to become a Councillor. I can assure you that the position can be an extremely rewarding experience.

If you are interested but unsure, during February the Parish Council will be holding two sessions to enable anyone living in the Parish, or within three miles of it, to come and find out what is involved. You can come and speak informally to present Councillors, have a look at some paperwork, discuss procedures, finances and find out about training available. Both sessions are to be held in the Youth Club room at DMs in Donisthorpe. The first will be on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February, 9.30am to 3.30pm (ideal for anyone dropping children off at school or before picking them up) and the second will be on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 10.00am to 2.00pm (perfect for those who work in the week, or who have been to Church or Sunday football). If you are interested and want to find out more, please just come along for a drink, a biscuit and a chat. See the back cover of 3VN for all the information.

The January meeting was short compared to normal. The budget and precept have been finalised and approved and will be published on the Parish website and noticeboards shortly. The arboreal work in the Community Orchard is progressing well and a plan is being put in place to ensure that all trees that are Parish responsibility are monitored regularly. The Parish application to the Highways Fund had been accepted. Nine planters are in place at entrances to the Parish and, in part, paid for as part of this initiative. Hopefully, the traffic calming measures we have applied for will be processed and implemented soon.

The Council would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciative thanks to Kevin Borley for his generous contribution to the planters, the help of Kevin and Alex, a member of Kevin's team, to deliver each planter, fill with compost and plant spring bulbs. All completed in one morning - and now we can look forward to Spring. If you are a keen gardener, have the time and would like to help look after the planters, please contact the Parish Manager. Look out for details of the next full Parish Council meeting, the date for the meeting is Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The venue is to be confirmed as there have been flooding problems at ME Sports (OCLC).

***Councillor Mick Warren, Chair, ODAPC***

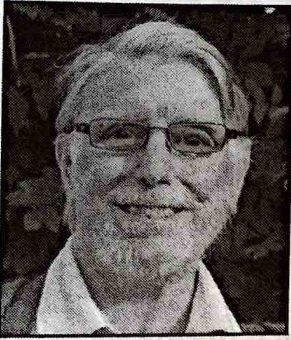
Next Parish Council meeting - **Wednesday 8 February 2023 at 7.30pm.**

**Venue to be confirmed. All are welcome.**

Queries can be sent to the Clerk at [manager@odapc.co.uk](mailto:manager@odapc.co.uk) for consideration at the meeting.



## Parish Council Elections



Most people know that there will be local government elections coming up in May, in this case, for the District Council. But it should not be forgotten that Parish and Town Council elections are held simultaneously. Our Parish will need to have eight Councillors. The Parish includes three villages (Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe and Acresford) - it is, of course, preferable that all eight Councillors don't all live in the same village. I have had two terms of office on this Council, however I have not, so far, been elected by ballot. This is quite simply because there have been few candidates available, so I (and my colleagues) have been elected unopposed - not ideal in terms of democracy. 114

My aim in writing this article is to give you an insight into some of the activities of a Parish Councillor over a period of nearly eight years. Firstly, I need to make it clear that should there ever be a shortfall in the number of Parish Councillors, the remaining members may co-opt a suitable person to fill the vacancy. In 2015, there were not enough elected Councillors, and I decided to apply for the vacancy. I was successful, and I have been on the Council ever since. This year, I and my colleagues are hoping that more parishioners will put their names forward for election, which would give residents the confidence that the Councillor they are dealing with is there to represent their needs, having been chosen by the Parish and not merely volunteered. 249

As a newly-appointed Councillor, I certainly felt rather nervous, I didn't really know many of my fellow Councillors, but was given a very warm welcome, and a large manual. It has various sections and a copy of the Code Of Conduct, and is constantly updated. It didn't take me long to adapt to the routine of meetings, and how they are run. There were two essential elements: first, that we really needed to work closely as a team; second, that we couldn't be expected to know or understand everything with which we were faced - neither did we have the expertise, time or experience to conduct all the necessary clerical (and more importantly, managerial) aspects of running a well organised Council. These duties fall to the Parish Manager & Responsible Finance Officer, Kelly Grove. For those who are elected to new Council in May, let me reassure you that Kelly will give you all the assistance and advice you will need. 411

I started putting my name forward for membership of sub-communities and working parties, which broadened my perspective of the community and beyond. I took on being part of the Joint Burial Board (shared with members from Ashby Wolds Town Council), also, until its work was completed, the 'Heart of The Forest Forum', which was largely involved in the 'Black to Green' initiative. I am also a member of the Finance Committee & take part in other initiatives - not all of them ongoing affairs. 494

There are many more activities in which I have taken part, beyond the necessary meetings and reports from sub-committees. It has always been a pleasure to attend yearly Church services, whether held for those serving in local government and welfare groups in the district, or for special occasions. As a Councillor, I have for many years participated in the end of year primary school assemblies, giving prizes on behalf of the Parish to those Year Six students whose participation and dedication to study and community have been outstanding. 583

There is, of course, more to being a Councillor than simply attending meetings, and performing formal duties; there are also the divided issues which arise from our



parishioners – not all of which our Parish Council can resolve! One of these has been attempting to make the streets of our villages safer from speeding vehicles. Following a petition signed by many residents, we have been successful in having a speed hump, brighter lighting & clearer signage sited at the pedestrian crossing on Measham Road pedestrian crossing outside the entrance to the Leisure Centre, Oakthorpe. In addition, we have erected MVAS speed warning signs on posts approaching Acresford. However, speeding cars is an ongoing issue. **697**

I must say that my time on this Council has been highly rewarding, and I can also say that it has been a privilege to serve the community in which I live. I strongly hope that those reading this will understand the importance of having a democratically elected Council, and put themselves forward for this year's elections. Should any of you wish to know more, then please feel free to contact me personally, or any other of those who are still Councillors. We won't all be here after May – some of us are getting a little older, and now is the time for the next generation to stand up & ensure our Parish gets everything it needs and deserves, following the elections. **718**

**Cllr. Richard Dyason**

### Contact List for Uniform Groups

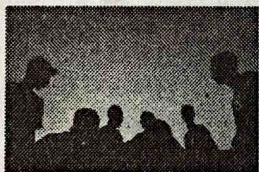
**Rainbows**, Awaiting new leader.

**Brownies**, Aimee Attwell 07718 920 534 tawny1stdonisthorpe@gmail.com

**Guides**, Alyson Kirkwood 01530 271 121 kirkwood\_bat@yahoo.co.uk

**Scouts**, Jon Bloor 07588 869 882 jon.bloor@4thashby.org.uk

### **Let's Celebrate Young People**



The Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire has launched his 2023 awards designed to showcase and celebrate the achievements of young people aged 13 to 19 across the city and county.

This year the four categories are:

- Young Person of Courage
- Young Volunteer
- Young Leader
- Young Artist

The closing date for nominations is: **Friday 17 February**. For further information please visit: [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/llawards](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/llawards)

### **Grants... Grants... Grants... Grants**

**£ £ £ £ £ £'s**

**Forest Society Grants.** This National Forest Company scheme funds new ways to support the health and wellbeing of residents and communities within the National Forest.

Four to five grants will be awarded of between £2,000 to £4,000, with a deadline for applications of **Monday 13 February**.

If you require further information or an informal discussion about your application, please contact Hollie Davison at [hdavison@nationalforest.org](mailto:hdavison@nationalforest.org) or call 07816 364775.





## **Donisthorpe Orchard Facelift**

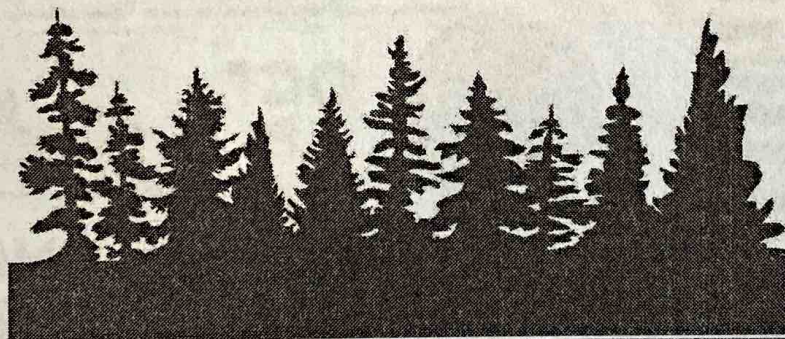
In the Summer of 2022, the Parish Council was approached by the community who wished to get involved pruning the fruit trees in the village orchard. After some initial investigation, it became clear that the whole orchard site, including the woodland, was in need of some significant attention.

The fruit trees had been allowed to grow unchecked for some years and the Covid pandemic delayed any serious remedial action for at least 3 years. The Parish Council went out to tender and chose the most competitive contractor to fell a number of dead and diseased trees, as well as root grinding 120 stumps to reduce the extensive trip hazard risk within the woodland. Some trees were planted inappropriately and were now crowding their neighbours. The hedges and hazel bushes needed a serious trim and most of the fruit trees needed crown lifting to allow the grass cutting teams to do their work efficiently.

Weston Tree Care won the contract and moved onto the site just in time to complete the work before Wassail celebrations on January 14<sup>th</sup>. The branches were mulched and supplied to the CIC land opposite the Pavilion to serve as footpaths on the newly cleared wasteland. Some was left for the allotment users, along with much of the coppiced hazel. The timber was logged for use by members of the community.

Nothing was wasted and the orchard will now serve as a much improved community asset in the years to come.

*Chris Keeley*



## **Measham Library Opening Hours**

**Tuesday 10 - 7pm, Thursday 10 - 1pm  
Friday 10 - 5pm, Saturday 10 - 1pm**







## **LOCAL ELECTIONS THURSDAY MAY 5<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council are holding 2 information sessions for people interested in standing as a candidate for the Parish Council in the local elections being held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May this year.**

**Sessions will be held in the Youth Club room based at The Pavilion, Church Street, Donisthorpe on:**

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> February 9.30am to 3.30pm</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> February 10am to 2pm</b>

**Councillors will be there to answer questions, provide information about the Council and how you, as a Councillor, can make a positive contribution to the community, and the responsibilities that come with the privilege of being a Councillor.**

**If you have any questions, please contact:-  
Councillor Sue McKendrick on 07970 743611 or  
Parish Manager Kelly Grove on 01530 610357.**